

expanded our rights. This Amendment, instead, would limit individual freedom.

As I think about this effort to amend the Constitution, I cannot help but conclude that in a free society, respect cannot be mandated. It springs from the heart. Furthermore, it seems ironic that the Senate would endeavor to protect this symbol of freedom by acting to limit the very freedom it represents.

I am gratified to know that Senator BOB KERREY, the only Member of the Senate who holds the Congressional Medal of Honor, and General Colin Powell, a living symbol of patriotism, also oppose this Resolution.

My heartfelt belief that this is the wrong approach was shaped by a man whose life was spent in a passionate struggle to protect and conserve the Constitution in the face of menacing threats. The early Twentieth Century was marked by World War I and by the Bolshevik Revolution, a time in world history during which the "Red Scare" was very real. Zechariah Chafee, a young Harvard Law professor and civil libertarian, wrote eloquently about "Freedom of Speech in Wartime." Zechariah Chafee argued that even during wartime the freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment must be upheld. He wrote, "[A] provision like the First Amendment to the federal Constitution is much more than an order to Congress not to cross the boundary which makes the extreme limits of lawful suppression. It is also an exhortation and a guide for the action of Congress inside that boundary. It is a declaration of a national policy in favor of the public discussion of all public questions." My great uncle had the courage to stand up for our Constitutional rights during a time of extremely high emotions in our national history. I am inspired by his example to defend that which separates this nation from all others—our freedoms.

NATIONAL ESTUARY CONSERVATION ACT

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, today, I rise to commend the Senate for passing, last Thursday, S. 835, the Estuary Habitat Restoration Partnership Act. Section 12 of this legislation is taken from legislation that I introduced, S. 878, with Senators BOXER, GREGG, MACK, GRAHAM, KENNEDY, LIEBERMAN, MOYNIHAN, REED, FEINSTEIN, KERRY, MURRAY, and SARBANES.

Today our nationally significant estuaries are threatened by pollution, development, or overuse. With 45 percent of the Nation's population residing in estuarine areas, there is a compelling need for us to promote comprehensive planning and management efforts to restore and protect them.

Estuaries are significant habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife because they provide safe spawning grounds

and nurseries. Seventy-five percent of the U.S. commercial fish catch depends on estuaries during some stage of their life. Commercial and recreational fisheries contribute \$111 billion to the nation's economy and support 1.5 million jobs. Estuaries are also important to our nation's tourist economy for boating and outdoor recreation. Coastal tourism in just four states—New Jersey, Florida, Texas, and California—totals \$75 billion.

Due to their popularity, the overall capacity of our nation's estuaries to function as healthy productive ecosystems is declining. This is a result of the cumulative effects of increasing development and fast growing year round populations which increase dramatically in the summer. Nowhere is this more pronounced than New Jersey. At Barnegat Bay, the population doubles in the summer months.

Land development, and associated activities that come with people's desire to live and play near these beautiful resources, cause runoff and storm water discharges that contribute to siltation, increased nutrients, and other contamination. Bacterial contamination closes many popular beaches and shellfish harvesting areas in estuaries. Also, several estuaries are afflicted by problems that still require significant research. Examples include the outbreaks of the toxic microbe, *Pfiesteria piscicida*, in rivers draining to estuaries in Maryland and Virginia.

Congress recognized the importance of preserving and enhancing coastal environments with the establishment of the National Estuary Program in the Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987. The Program's purpose is to facilitate state and local governments preparation of comprehensive conservation and management plans for threatened estuaries of national significance. In support of this effort, Section 320 of the Clean Water Act authorized the EPA to make grants to states to develop environmental management plans. To date, 28 estuaries across the country have been designated. However, the law fails to provide assistance once plans are complete and ready for implementation. Already, 22 of the 28 plans are finished.

As the majority of plans are now in the implementation stage, it is incumbent upon us to maintain the partnership the Federal government initiated ten years ago to insure that our nationally significant estuaries are protected. S. 835 will take the next step by including language from S. 878 that will give EPA the authority to make grants for plan implementation and authorize annual appropriations in the amount of \$25 million. I am also hopeful that when this bill goes to conference, this authorization can be increased to \$50 million. With such an increase areas will be able to upgrade sewage treatment plants, fix combined

sewer overflows, control urban stormwater discharges, and reduce polluted runoff into estuarine areas.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, April 3, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,750,620,100,381.36 (Five trillion, seven hundred fifty billion, six hundred twenty million, one hundred thousand, three hundred eighty-one dollars and thirty-six cents).

Five years ago, April 3, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,873,481,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred seventy-three billion, four hundred eighty-one million).

Ten years ago, April 3, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,092,175,000,000 (Three trillion, ninety-two billion, one hundred seventy-five million).

Fifteen years ago, April 3, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,738,155,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred thirty-eight billion, one hundred fifty-five million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 3, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$504,572,000,000 (Five hundred four billion, five hundred seventy-two million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,246,048,100,381.36 (Five trillion, two hundred forty-six billion, forty-eight million, one hundred thousand, three hundred eighty-one dollars and thirty-six cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF GREG HART, TEACHER AT SKYLINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, throughout my great State of Washington, there are thousands of gifted students who need some extra time and attention to help further their talents. At Skyline Elementary in Ferndale, a teacher by the name of Greg Hart, has turned a program created by the school district into a tremendous success and created an environment where gifted students can excel. For his achievements with gifted students in the Aiming High program, I am proud to award him with my next "Innovation in Education" Award.

The Aiming High program consists of students from all over the Ferndale School Districts for gifted students in the top 1 to 2-percent of the district and was created by the Ferndale School District to encourage highly capable students to develop critical thinking and analytical skills, act responsibly and respectfully, and promote positive self-esteem. Mr. Hart's classes consists of fifth and sixth grade students.

Both the Ferndale Superintendent and Skyline Principal believe that Mr.